

Tilghman Md 21671
Tuesday, 8/20/74

Dear Joe,

I have been writing myself into a stupor of sorts on Apollo, without yet getting some key concept, and with only a few days more, since I fetch the children on Saturday, but I have written many sections that dovetail, somewhere between 250 and 300 pages, I guess, much of it rewritten from earlier versions, and my interest sustains itself and increases as I keep feeling that I must be approaching some statement or revelation which would justify or explain not only Apollo but what I am doing so intensely, and I have the feeling that the concept is the purloined concept, like Poet's letter, and that I have it but don't see how to develop it.

Anyway yesterday I wrote 26 pages, today 14, and I write about boundary when I approach a boundary of sorts. What I want is to have a complete shape in mind before the interruptions of the children, and it seems close but has seemed close for a long time.

I couldn't find the telephone number of that Foundation Ursul^d mentioned; September?

We return to NYC probably September 8. I will need to come back to Tilghman one weekend to get more stuff. If someone would take my kids, we could possibly combine Washington, D.C. air-and-space with Tilghman, if you had any interest in that. We can talk after Yaddo when circumstances will have drawn their cirumscriptions.

I could have and maybe should have mailed the volume which contains the Coates and the Mullaney But it is part of The World of Mathematics ed. James R. NEWMAN, and I can't part with it at the moment. Shall I mail it? When is the Calvino review due?

I am I trust the first one on Tilghman Island to read Michel Tournier, Erl-King, as Kenneth Baker assured me I would be when he mailed it to me, because it isn't out here yet; trans. from French. Does George Bourchard know him? IT is a brilliant book, which maybe I'll reread, written with so many binary oppositions that it begs for a structuralist interpretation, yet it seems to me that the very self-consciousness must change the meaning of the oppositions and the mediation of the oppositions. He also is glancing at Jungian synchronicity. There is a problem that a French novel about World War II takes up the German (Nazi) treatment of the Jews, and evades the French, which I have read (Hannah Arendt?) was a horror. The ending of the book is disappointing to me. I'll lend it to you.

I haven't worked directly on any stories--I deplete myself daily with the writing on Apollo--but I make notes, and know now that "Globe Theater Operations" deserves time/space of its own, so maybe when I come to the end of this run-through of Apollo I'll put it aside and do "Globe". Anyway back to fatherhood, motherhood, and my children on Saturday...

Yours in "delegate" IBM type,

Bill